

[first] pivoting said [the] scraper blade from said starting position towards [an inner] the peripheral wall [of the basket], wherein the [scraper blade] cutting edge of said scraper blade lies in a direction opposite to a rotation direction of the basket, and wherein the scraper blade contacts the product over approximately the entire [height] length of the centrifuge basket;

scraping the product [from the basket wall] off in layers as the centrifuge basket rotates at a clearing speed;

ceasing the pivoting of the scraper blade when [the] its cutting edge reaches an advance limit [a desired] position prior to touching [an inner] the peripheral wall of the centrifuge basket;

pivoting the scraper blade away from the [basket wall] peripheral wall back into its starting position; and

raising the scraper blade in axial direction back into its initial position.

Please cancel claims 2 and 3.

24. (Amended) A method for clearing product from a centrifuge basket as claimed in claim 1, wherein the scraper blade is lowered from its initial position while the centrifuge basket is decelerating from a spin-off speed to the clearing speed.

25. (Amended) A method for clearing product from a centrifuge basket as claimed in claim 1, further comprising holding the scraper blade [near the inner wall] in said advance limit position for a period of time prior to being pivoted away from the peripheral wall.

26. (Amended) A method for clearing product from a centrifuge basket as claimed in claim 1, wherein [the] lowering, pivoting and raising of the scraper blade are pneumatically controlled.

9. (Amended) A method for clearing product from a centrifuge basket as claimed in claim [2] 1, wherein the initial position is approximately 200 mm from the bottom wall [base] of the centrifuge basket.

8. 10. (Amended) A clearing device for removing product from a centrifuge basket of a discontinuously running centrifuge, said basket comprising a peripheral wall and a bottom wall, said bottom wall closing one end of the peripheral wall, said peripheral wall defining a basket sieve and the entire axial length of the centrifuge basket, the clearing device comprising:

a clearing rod having an axis at least generally parallel to [the] a rotational axis of the centrifuge basket and being displaceable in its axial direction; [and]

a scraper blade, having a cutting edge, pivotably mounted on the clearing rod for pivoting about the axis of the clearing rod, wherein the cutting edge, after the scraper blade is pivoted in a direction toward the [inner] peripheral wall of the centrifuge basket, extends over approximately the entire [height] axial length of the centrifuge basket and lies in a direction opposite to a rotation direction of the basket;

a lowering, pivoting and raising device for lowering the cleaning rod from an initial position of the scraper blade in axial direction of the centrifuge basket to a starting position, wherein the scraper blade nearly touches the bottom wall of the centrifuge basket at said starting position, and further for pivoting the scraper blade from said starting position towards the peripheral wall, for pivoting the scraper blade back into its starting position and for axially raising the scraper blade back into its initial position.

12. (Amended) A clearing device as claimed in claim 10, wherein the scraper forms an angle with the [inner] peripheral wall of the centrifuge basket, which angle is between 30° and less than 90°.

Please cancel claims 13 and 16.

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(Amended) A discontinuously running centrifuge comprising:

a centrifuge basket having a [inner] peripheral wall, a bottom wall closing one end of the peripheral wall and a central product discharge opening in the bottom wall, said peripheral wall defining a basket sieve and the entire axial length of the centrifuge basket;

a closure cap for covering the central product discharge opening while the centrifuge is being operated; and

a clearing device for removing a product from the centrifuge basket including:

a [vertically displaceable] clearing rod having an axis at least generally parallel to a rotational axis of the centrifuge basket and being displaceable in its axial direction;

a scraper blade, having a cutting edge, pivotably mounted [to] on the clearing rod for pivoting about the axis of the clearing rod, [wherein the scraper blade pivots about an axis of the clearing rod, and] wherein the cutting edge, after the scraper blade is pivoted in a direction toward the [inner] peripheral wall of the centrifuge basket, extends over approximately the entire [height] axial length of the centrifuge basket and lies in a direction opposite to a rotation direction of the basket;

a lowering, pivoting and raising device for lowering the clearing rod from an initial position of the scraper blade in axial direction of the centrifuge basket until a starting position, where the scraper blade nearly touches the bottom wall of the centrifuge basket, and further for pivoting the scraper blade from said starting position towards the peripheral wall, for pivoting the scraper blade back into its starting position and for axially raising the scraper blade back into its initial position.